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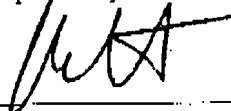
The examiner has rejected claims 1,3,5-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 over Tauchi, U.S. 2004/0028912. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. The claims have been amended to require that the silver alloy consisting of silver, gallium as a first additive element, and at least either dysprosium or thulium as a second additive element. Tauchi does not mention dysprosium or thulium and hence cannot anticipate or obviate the claims as amended. It is therefore urged that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 over JP 2001-184725. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. The claims have been amended to require that the silver alloy consisting of silver, gallium as a first additive element, and at least either dysprosium or thulium as a second additive element. JP 2001-184725 does not mention dysprosium or thulium and hence cannot anticipate or obviate the claims as amended. It is therefore urged that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3, and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 over JP 2004-131747. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. The claims have been amended to require that the silver alloy consisting of silver, gallium as a first additive element, and at least either dysprosium or thulium as a second additive element. JP 2004-131747 does not mention dysprosium or thulium and hence cannot anticipate or obviate the claims as amended. It is therefore urged that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the examiner believes there is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 23, 2007

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. (571) 273-8300) on July 23, 2007.



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